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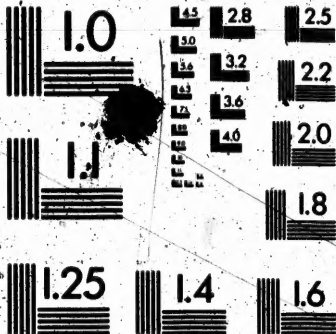
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The Lesson of Statistics, OR FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

By REV. R. WALLACE, TORONTO.

THE extent and expense of the liquor traffic in Great Britain, the United States and Canada.—The loss of life and the crime caused by the traffic. The quantity of liquor manufactured and imported into Canada.—The revenue derived from liquor in Britain, the United States and Canada; and the cost of the liquor traffic to these nations.—The liquor traffic the chief cause of pauperism. Licenses under the Crooks Act fewer, and crime less. The misery caused by the traffic greater than that caused by war, famine and pestilence. Fifty per cent. of insanity caused by it; reports from asylums in Great Britain, the United States and Canada. Intoxicants not necessary for health according to the leading physicians of the world and life assurance companies. Water-drinkers stronger and healthier. Prohibition the true remedy, and the duty of the Legislature. Report of a Select Committee of the Canadian Parliament, and action of several States restricting the traffic.

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* ATTENTION *

THE accompanying is the first of a number of papers which this association propose to publish. We trust you will read, circulate and in every way in your power make known its contents, so that it may do its part in the way of forming public opinion. Please bear in mind that this and other branches of our work costs money. Please at once remit whatever amount you think you can spare for this most important work. Kindly also interest others in the matter and endeavour to obtain their subscriptions so that we may not be obliged to close the work or be hampered in our efforts to advance the interests of Temperance—in the present encouraging state of the cause—for want of funds. Kindly remit to the Treasurer, DAVID MILLAR, ESQ., 466 Queen Street West, TORONTO.

S. H. BLAKE, President.

W. G. FEE, Secretary.

The Lesson of Statistics, OR, FACTS AND FIGURES ON THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

BY REV. R. WALLACE, TORONTO.

1. Look at the extent and expense of the liquor traffic in Great Britain, the United States and Canada. About one-seventh of the grain of Great Britain is wasted on this traffic, when thousands of the people are on the verge of starvation and living in abject poverty. In the United Kingdom, 52,659,000 bushels of grain are destroyed yearly to make beer. Prof. Foster says that 100,000,000 bushels of grain are annually destroyed in the Anglo-Saxon world, which would give two barrels of flour to every family in England, the United States and Canada during the year. The Church of England Temperance Chronicle endorsed the following calculation:—William Hoyle, Esq., M.P. for Dewsbury, England, stated in the spring of 1880,—that during the last seven years the large total had been spent of £987,000,000, or £200,000,000 more than the national debt of Great Britain. And this was not all, for it cost at least £100,000,000 more to pay for the mischief that it caused. That gave a cost of £241,000,000, or about \$1,200,000,000 yearly for their drink bill! He says that if they deducted £41,000,000 for revenue it still left £200,000,000 as the cost and loss to the nation every year, or £8,000,000 more than the foreign trade of England, and that when the expenditure for bread is only about £75,000,000, and the great charitable institutions of the country only receive about £2,000,000. Rev. Canon Baldwin stated in Toronto that, according to Hayles, in forty towns in Scotland there are 980 people to each baker, 1,026 to each butcher, 2,228 to each bookseller, and only

149 to each beer-shop. According to this, drink was seven times more prized than beef or mutton, and fifteen more than intelligence, and that in one of the best educated countries in the world. It said that there are about 200,000 places in Great Britain where liquor is sold, and these are probably doing more to hinder God's cause than the 40,000 ministers of religion can do to advance it. As the result, mainly of intemperance, they have nearly 3,000,000 applying yearly for parish relief in that wealthy country; 85,000 inmates in their asylums; 60,000 convicted of crime; at least 250,000 vagrants roaming about the country; and about 120,000 brought annually to a premature grave. And these liquor shops are sanctioned by law to lead away the people from God, from happiness and heaven. Thus the liquor traffic of Great Britain costs as much as would support 600,000 missionaries at \$1,200 a year; 500,000 schoolmasters at \$500; build 5,000 churches at \$10,000; 5,000 school-houses at \$4,000; would give to the world 200,000,000 of bibles at 25 cents each; and 500,000,000 of tracts at \$1 per 100; would give 100,000 widows, \$100 a year; and 200,000 poor families, \$50 a year. In short, would provide a machinery that would evangelize the world in a short time, or pay off the national debt in four years. Dr. Young, chief of the Bureau of Statistics at Washington, estimated the cost of liquor to the consumers of the nation, in 1867, at \$600,000,000. The amount is much larger at this time. Dr. Hargreaves "WASTED RESOURCES," in 1872, estimated the direct cost of liquor in the United States at \$734,720,048, one-half of which is profit; whereas the largest cotton crop ever raised, 1859-60, was only worth \$246,516,117; and the flour and grist mill products, \$144,955,143. The unproductive liquor traffic employs half a million persons directly, besides their families and dependents. In contrast, the 57,000 clergymen cost the United States but \$12,000,000 yearly, while seeking to elevate and save the people.

The late Hon. Wm. E. Dodge (Senator from New York, and according to Rev. Joseph Cook, one of the best authorities in the United States on the liquor traffic), stated in September, 1880, that there were 175,000 places where intoxicating liquor was sold, involving a direct outlay and waste of not less than \$700,000,000, and an indirect loss to the country, by crime, pauperism, &c., of \$700,000,000 more; and this results in the destruction of 100,000 lives yearly. Mr. Dodge showed that in Maine, before prohibition, there was one drunkard for every fifty-five of the population, and one million gallons of spirits was distilled annually, while the liquor bill amounted to \$10,000,000. Since prohibition there is not a distillery or brewery in the state, the recent sale of liquor amounting to the mere fraction of the former quantity sold; whereas the death rate had been reduced to one in 300 of her population. A very valuable paper was published in the Catholic Presbyter-

ian, Edinburgh, June, 1882, by W. A. Powell, Esq., New York, a leading temperance writer. It states that in 1881 there were in operation in the United States 3,210 distilleries. These consumed 31,291,130 bushels of grain, with an aggregate production of 117,728,150 gallons of proof spirits. For the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1881, total amount of revenue to the national treasury from distilled spirits was \$67,153,974.83; for the same period the total revenue from fermented liquors amounted to \$13,700,241.21. The beer production for the year ending 30th June, was 14,311,028 bushels, or at thirty-one gallons per bushel the enormous aggregate of 434,641,868 gallons. A brewer's authority gives the number of breweries at 2,830, and estimates that there are 1,681,670 acres of land under cultivation for barley and hops. If sown with wheat, at thirty bushels per acre, this land would provide 50,456,000 bushels, or about one bushel for every man, woman and child in the United States. Added to the \$80,854,216 received by the Internal Revenue Department from distilled and fermented liquors of home manufacture, there were customs' duties collected from imported foreign liquors amounting to \$6,469,640.04, making a grand total of liquor revenue to the national treasury for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1881, of \$87,323,859.13.

In 1880, according to the official record of the Internal Revenue Department, there were of wholesale dealers in distilled spirits, 4,065; of retail dealers, 166,801; of wholesale dealers in fermented liquors, 2,065; of retail dealers, 8,952; an aggregate of wholesale and retail dealers in both distilled and fermented liquors of 181,973, and all these commissioned to prey upon society, and promote crime, pauperism, vice, disease and misery. The census of 1870 shows the total value of church property of all sects in the United States at \$354,483,587, and that the annual contribution for church purposes and benevolent objects amounts to \$47,336,495. Add to this the annual expenditure for the public schools of the United States (census returns, 1870,) of \$95,402,726, and we have an aggregate for church property, annual contributions for church purposes and benevolent purposes, and for public schools, of \$497,522,802, with a balance of \$217,447,198 as the excess of the nation's drink bill for a single year. The fair comparison is not between the value of property accumulated for religion, but between the yearly expenses for religion, benevolence and education, which only amount to \$143,839,221, that is, not much more than one-fifth of the direct cost of the liquor bill. Not long since the *New York Tribune* stated that the annual liquor bill in the United States was not less than \$800,000,000 yearly, thus corroborating the above calculations. Then if the direct cost of the liquor bill to the consumers is over \$700,000,000, we must remember that the indirect expenses for criminals—for prisons, penitentiaries, asylums, reformatories, &c., is about equal, making the total cost

and loss to the nation about \$1,400,000,000, the same as Mr. Dodge made it, or over nine times as much as is spent yearly on education, religion and benevolence, for the elevation and benefit of their own people, and for the conversion of the world. It has been declared on authority of an official census that the liquor traffic during the last ten years has sent 100,000 children to the poor houses in the United States; has committed at least 150,000 to prisons and workhouses; has made at least 10,000 insane; has determined at least 2,000 suicides; has caused the loss, by fire or violence, of \$10,000,000 worth of property; and has made 200,000 widows and 1,000,000 orphans, while the clergymen of the United States cost \$12,000,000 yearly, the lawyers \$80,000,000. There are about 750,000 engaged in the liquor traffic, while there are but 150,000 ministers and school teachers. It has long been held by temperance writers that the victims of the liquor traffic form an army of 600,000 drunkards in England, and 60,000 of these die annually. This has often been sneered at as absurd and without foundation. But lately the eminent Dr. Richardson examined the matter with great care, and found on good data that at least 108,000 die annually in England from the use of intoxicants. We may safely conclude with the best authorities that about 120,000 die annually in Great Britain and Ireland from intemperance. According to the returns of the Secretary of State for the Dominion of Canada, 1883, the quantity of spirits manufactured in

Canada in 1882, was.....	4,028,847	gallons.
Malt liquors	12,036,979	"
	16,065,826	"
Liquors imported and entered for home consumption	1,667,008	"
	17,733,934	"

or nearly four gallons for every man, woman and child in the Dominion.

Duty due on the same	\$4,028,847
Duty collected on home manufactured liquors	3,552,990
Duty collected on imported liquors	1,661,990

Total duty collected on liquors in 1882.... \$5,214,980

G. W. Ross, Esq., M.P., in 1877, reckoned the cost of the liquor traffic to the consumer as five times as much as the revenue, then \$5,000,000, that is \$25,000,000. Then he reckons \$9,000,000 as lost to the productive wealth of the country, through intemperance and

sacrifice of life, \$6,000,000, and by other losses \$1,000,000, in all \$41,000,000 cost to the country, or over \$10 per head of the population. At the same time Mr. Ross states that according to Mr. Hoyle, the traffic in Great Britain cost \$20 per head, and in the United States, according to Commissioner Wells, \$4 per head. In a statistical report presented to a temperance convention in Toronto in 1869, the liquor traffic is believed to cost Canada \$43,500,000.

By the direct cost of the liquor.....	\$18,100,000
Loss by land used in cultivation of grain, &c....	2,500,000
Loss of capital and labour.....	5,500,000
Loss of labour to the state by retailer, &c.....	3,000,000
Loss of labour and time by working men.....	5,500,000
Destruction of property on land, lakes and rivers— loss by theft, bad debt and crimes.....	3,400,000
Charges through pauperism, destitution, sickness, insanity, and premature death, traceable to drink.....	3,500,000
Cost of police, prosecution, courts of justice, sup- port of criminals, &c., at least.....	2,000,000
	\$43,500,000

Mr. Scott states that, in 1877, this should be increased to \$50,000,000. We may safely place the present cost of the traffic in the Dominion as about \$52,000,000, or over \$11 per head of the population, \$26,000,000 being reckoned as the cost to the consumer, and that doubled as in the United States. The report of the License Commissioner for Ontario shows that in 1882 there were 4,163 licenses for wholesale and retail shops in Ontario alone, from which a revenue was derived of \$91,948.75. We may reckon 7,000 as the yearly victims of this traffic in Canada. And all this is sanctioned by law for the sake of a little over \$5,000,000 of revenue! We may illustrate the great loss of this traffic to the country by supposing that it cost the doctor or lawyer \$8 to \$10 to collect every dollar of his fees. We may be sure they would soon refuse their services to their patients and clients at such a losing rate. For every dollar the revenue gains the country loses over five directly. The government thus sanctions the waste to the country, directly and indirectly, of probably \$52,000,000 for the sake of about \$5,200,000 of revenue. The marked decrease of late in the consumption of liquors in Great Britain is causing anxiety to officials, because there has been a great falling off in the revenue. But as the result there will be a most beneficial falling off in the expenses for the restraining of crime, and in

the general growth of the wealth of the community, which will soon far more than compensate for the temporary loss of revenue. (The revenue from excise is now \$25,000,000 less than it was seven years ago.) As an illustration of this we would cite the case of Vineland, New Jersey, which practically as well as legally prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquors. Yonkers, N.Y., licenses 145 saloons, and has in addition 75 places where liquor is sold in violation of the law. Vineland has about 12,000 inhabitants, and Yonkers less than 15,000. Yonkers spends on its police \$37,000, and the police duties of Vineland are performed by one constable at the annual expense of \$75. Yonkers has a police judge at a salary of \$4,000, and a clerk who is paid \$800. Vineland has no police court and needs none. The paupers of Yonkers cost the town \$12,000; Vineland only has six, pay \$400 for the same. Altogether these articles of expense cost Yonkers \$43,800; in Vineland, \$475. Making proportionate allowance for the difference in population, the government, so far as the expenses are concerned, cost more than ninety times as much as that of Vineland.

Then look at the loss to the community of the labour of the army of drunkards. If we reckon the number in Britain or the United States as 600,000, and allow only \$500 in each case as the loss of their labour to the community, which would be a moderate calculation, as many of these are men of education and ability, whose earning might add five or six times as much to the wealth of the country, and we have thus \$300,000,000 lost to the productive wealth of the country by this item alone. And this must be multiplied manifold by the habits transmitted to their children, so that the system of impoverishment goes on increasing from generation to generation. Looking at this aspect of the matter, we have solved the question as to the grand cause of the pauperism and indolence which presses as a heavy incubus on Britain, the United States and Canada. Dr. Richardson and other eminent physicians hold that the predisposing causes are hereditary, and that the evil tendencies become worse the longer they continue. And I have found as a matter of careful observation, during a long experience in the ministry, that nine-tenths of the cases of abject poverty I have known could be traced to the use of intoxicants as the cause. Then, in Great Britain, the United States and Canada, three of the most Christian countries in the world, over 220,000 persons perish annually as victims on the altars of this modern Moloch!

Probably over \$3,000,000,000 are spent annually on intoxicants in Christendom, while not the tenth part of the funds that are needed can be obtained to obey the command of the Redeemer to give the Gospel to every creature, not more than \$8,000,000 being given yearly for the conversion of the heathen world to Christ.

2. Now look at the result of the traffic in producing vice and crime. It has generally been held by judges, magistrates, sheriffs, chaplains of prisons, and others in positions enabling them to judge, that three-fourths to four-fifths of the crime and misery existing in Britain, the United States and Canada are the result of the liquor traffic, with all the enormous burdens thus inflicted on society. The Chief of the Toronto Police Force states in his report for 1882, that of 5,806 arrested in 1882 2,974 were for being drunk and disorderly, and that many of the other cases of crime were caused by drink. The Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics has declared in an official report that intemperance enters as a leading cause into 84 per cent. of the crimes brought to the notice of the law in that State. Rev. W. Searles writes 2nd March, 1883, that during the ten years that he has been Chaplain of the Auburn prison, New York, there have been confined there 4,800 individuals. Of this number, 2,924 acknowledged that they were intemperate, while 1,011 put themselves on record as "moderate drinkers." Full one-half acknowledged the use of intoxicants as the cause of their downfall. He says, "Idleness and drunkenness are the great causes of crime, and they usually go hand in hand." We learn from the report of the License Commissioner for Ontario for 1882, that the number of licenses given in 1874, under the Act then in force, was 6,185, the number issued in 1876, under the Crooks Act, was 3,939, the reduction being more than one-third.

Number of persons committed to the county jail, Toronto, for drunkenness, in several years, taken from the Blue Book :—

1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882
4,032	3,785	3,581	3,795	2,328	3,497

Thus it will be seen that under the Crooks Act, when the licenses have been fewer than the number of persons committed for drunkenness has greatly decreased, notwithstanding the increase of population.

Central Prison for Ontario report for 1882. Prisoners committed from the beginning of the prison up to 30th September, 1882 :—

Temperate	1,280
Intemperate	4,061
	5,371

That is more than three-fourths of the prisoners have been intemperate, and their criminal career consequently be traced to the use of intoxicants. Prisoners committed to Central Prison during the year ending 30th September, 1882 :—

Temperate	95
Intemperate	692

Here we have more than six-sevenths of the prisoners intemperate. The report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Canada, for the year 1849, states that Captain Wiley, Chief of Police for the city of Montreal, reports the total number of offences for 1848, 3,524, of these 2,001 were for being drunk. Mr. McGinn, Montréal, gaoler, reports number of prisoners committed to jail during 1848 as 1,462; 907 of these from intemperance, or more than two-thirds of them.

This traffic is also one of the chief causes of poverty and starvation. Dr. Richardson states that 75 per cent, of the cereal produce of Ireland goes for the production of barley, which goes in its turn for the production of whiskey. When we look at all these facts we are forced to the conclusion that the chief source of poverty as well as of crime, and the chief hinderance to the prosperity of our country is the liquor traffic. And we see good reason for the conclusion of such men as Hon. Wm. E. Dodge, that the indirect expenses and loss to the country nearly equal the direct cost of the liquor, and that the whole of this, or nearly so, is a direct loss to the country, because unnecessary for the health or well-being of the people. That is, the government of these three Christian countries sanctions a traffic which causes most of the crimes committed by the people, and which causes the destruction of about 228,000 lives yearly, and the waste of 2,600 million of dollars, for the sake of less than \$280,000,000 of revenue, while impoverishing or hindering the prosperity of the country eight or ten times as much thereby.

We may calculate the loss of property to the nation, but who can compute the wretchedness caused to families, the poverty, cruelty, disappointed hope, broken hearts, sad and withered lives, and diseased constitutions, transmitted by drunkards, and the vice and crime which this traffic occasions; together with the happiness which it prevents, and above all the awful misery resulting from the eternal ruin of so many millions of souls?

That great statesman, the Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone, has declared that the intemperance of the Anglo-Saxon race, especially of Englishmen, Scotchmen and Americans, has injured them more than war, pestilence and famine. And it has certainly caused more destruction of life, as the above statistics abundantly prove. Dr. Guthrie states that a great French statesman once said, "Were it not for the drunkenness of your people, you Anglo-Saxons would rule the world."

3. Dr. Daniel Clark, Medical Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Toronto, is of opinion that 50 per cent. of the cases of insanity may be traced to intoxicants, mostly through the parent or grandparent, as a predisposing cause. He says that a large proportion of the tendency to drunkenness is hereditary, and that the impulse to insanity comes largely from the same cause.

Dr. Richardson states that Dr. Edgar Shepherd declares that 40 per cent. of the persons who come into the Great Asylum at Colney Hatch, England, are brought there from the direct or indirect effects of drink. The Royal Commissioners say that the direct effects are represented by 14 per cent. Dr. Mason of England, says: "The inebriety of parents should be regarded as one predisposing cause of insanity in children. The principal causes is the inebriety of parents; 92 out of 116 cases in one asylum have such parentage."

Dr. Richardson holds that this is one of the chief causes of both disease and insanity transmitted by parents to children, and that this tendency may continue to increase with greater intensity from generation to generation. He says: "Here like as a forest may begin from the implantation of a single plant, so from the beginning of the taking of alcohol; the mischief may progress from generation to generation, until at last, if such efforts as ours were not put forth to check the evil, this world might indeed—I am speaking the words of truth and soberness—become one gigantic inebriate asylum." Dr. Howe, in his well-known report on the state of idiocy in Massachusetts, states that the habits of one or both parents of 300 idiots having been learned; 145 of these children, or nearly one-half, were found to be the progeny of habitual drunkards. Dr. Howe gives the case of one drunkard who was the parent of eleven idiots. Dr. A. Mitchell, in his evidence before the Committee of the British House of Commons, said he was quite certain that the children of habitual drunkards were in larger proportion idiotic than other children, a belief shared in by M. Rousel, M. Taquet, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Norman Kerr, and other competent observers.

The transmitted insatiable craving for drink—the dipsomania of the physician—every day becoming more prevalent in England, is owing to the increase of female intemperance, transmitted to their children, is the opinion of Dr. Norman Kerr, F.L.S.

5. If the traffic can thus be shown to cause so much evil and misery, and that it tends greatly to hinder the productive wealth and power of the country, is it sustained because it is necessary for the health of the people and promotive of longevity? No; longevity is greatly promoted by total abstinence from all intoxicants. The English Life Assurance Companies have taken great care in collecting statistics of life, health and disease; they find that more than three drinkers die for one abstainer (357 to 110).

The temperance life assurance offices have not half as many deaths as the other offices. Dr. Carpenter says that in the general societies the average mortality for all ages between 15 and 70, is 20 per 1,000; whereas in the Temperance Provident Institution it was only 6 per 1,000. The able and scholarly lecturer, Rev. Joseph Cook, in his pre-

lude to a lecture at Boston, 3rd February, 1883, says that one of the foremost life assurance societies of London, England, had been accustomed to distribute every five years bonuses to its two sections; that is to the total abstainers on the one hand, and to the moderate drinkers on the other; and that the result has been, during the past sixteen years, that they have issued 9,345 policies on the lives of moderate drinkers—that is of those who are not strictly abstinent in the use of alcoholic liquors—and 3,396 on the lives of total abstainers. Of the former, 524 have died, but 91 only of the latter, or less than one-half of the proportionate number, which of course would be 190. Thus less than one-half the number of abstainers have died, compared with the number of non-abstainers, who were strictly temperate, and this in the experience of sixteen years. Another life assurance society declared during the years 1872, 1875 and 1878, a bonus to the temperance section 15 per cent. higher than in the general department; while in 1881, the bonus was 23 per cent. higher to the temperance section. Mr. Cook says that the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution insures member in two sections, one in which all the members are total abstainers, the other moderate drinkers, all intemperate persons being excluded. The two sections being alike in other respects, about 20,000 lives being insured in the general section, and 10,000 in the temperance section. Returns of the expected actual claims in both sections for fifteen years, from 1860 to 1875, show that in the general section 3,450 deaths were expected, and that 3,444 took place; whereas in the temperance section the expected deaths were 2,002, and the actual deaths only 1,433. During the year 1879 the expected claims in the temperance section were 195 for £40,844; the actual claims were 164 for £28,649. In the general section 305 were expected for £64,343, the actual having been 326 for £74,950. The five years' bonuses in the temperance section have been $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. greater than these in the general section. In an experience of nearly 40 years, and the insurance of more than 100,000 lives; in societies making a distinction between temperate, non-abstainers and total abstainers, have proved that under the law of averages, a bonus of from 17 to 23 per cent. must be paid to the section of total abstainers.

Here is cool, stern business sagacity applied to one of the most complicated commercial matters, and the outcome we have in this great proportion, sustained as it is by the most exact application of the law of averages, that nearly 25 per cent. must be paid to total abstainers above what is paid to moderate drinkers. And many of these total abstainers have not been such all their lives; their health may have been injured in many cases by early indulgences. By and by when these societies come to have sections filled by men who have been total abstainers all their life, the average of bonus will be higher still to the temperance

sections. Then we should remember that the section of moderate drinkers are not drunkards (who are excluded), but respectable men, most of them merely wine drinkers. Mr. Cook declares that the liquor bill of the United States is greater than the bills for Civil Service, the army and navy, the cost of Congress, including river and harbour appropriation, and all they pay to state and city governments, and common school education, all these amounting to \$700,000,000; whereas, according to the New York *Tribune*, the liquor bill is \$800,000,000.

In accordance with these findings, two thousand of the most eminent physicians of Europe and America, from Court physicians to country practitioners, signed the following certificate:—"That a very large proportion of human misery, including poverty, disease and crime, is induced by the use of alcoholic or fermented beverages. That the most perfect health is compatible with total abstinence from all such beverages, whether in the form of wine, beer, ale, porter, &c. That total or universal abstinence from alcoholic beverages of all sorts, would greatly contribute to the health, the prosperity, the morality, and the happiness of the human family."

A similar statement was signed by Dr. Campbell, Dean of Faculty, McGill College, Montreal, and by ninety-six of the ablest physicians of that city. The most eminent physicians of the age declare that alcohol is not food in any sense, but a stimulant poison or medical drug; that it seriously injures the brain, liver and stomach; that it passes off by the excretory organs without being assimilated, and that while it acts as a whip or excitant, it weakens and deranges the powers and shortens the life. Such were the views of the late Dr. Miller, of Edinburgh, Dr. F. R. Lees, Dr. Carpenter, Dr. D. B. Richardson, Dr. Andrew Clark, physician to the Queen, Dr. Norman Kerr, F.L.S., and Sir Henry Thompson.

Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sir James Clark, Dr. Marshall Hall, and others of the most eminent medical men in Great Britain, declare that man in ordinary health, like other animals, requires no such stimulants as wine, beer, or spirits, and cannot be benefitted by any quantity of them large or small, nor will their use during his life increase the aggregate amount of his labour. In whatever quantity they are employed they will rather tend to diminish it. Liebig, the prince of physiologists and chemists, says that he who uses intoxicants, draws, so to speak, a bill on his health which must always be renewed; because for want of means he cannot take it up. He consumes his capital instead of his interest, and the result is the inevitable bankruptcy of the body.

The leading chemists tell us that alcohol causes diseases of the vital organs, debilitates the vigour of the physical system, while it weakens the mind and promotes in both premature decay. The eminent

physician, Sir Astley Cooper, says, "We have all been in error in recommending wine as a tonic. Ardent spirits and poison are convertible terms." The stimulus given is not strength, it is always exceeded by the subsequent depression. It is like the spur used to a jaded horse, when he needs rest and oats, which by forcing him to exert beyond his natural strength only hastens his exhaustion. In the presence of the highest medical authorities of the world, what then is the value of the opinion of some that liquors are food, and that such stimulants are necessary? There are many facts which show that total abstinence is better adapted than moderate drinking, for all climates. Dr. Rae, the eminent arctic traveller, says that spirits were of no use in the frozen region of the north zone except for burning. He found that they would render the men less able to endure severe cold. So it is in the South; soldiers and others in India who use alcoholic liquors are more liable to fever, liver, and other dangerous diseases. The water-drinkers of many lands, as the Caffres of South Africa, are said to be equal in strength to two English beer drinkers. The porters of Constantinople carry burdens that would oppress two Britons. The New Zealanders, with their extraordinary strength and stature; the Circassians, with their primitive longevity and personal beauty; the ancient Grecian, Roman, and Sarcen armies, proverbially invincible, were all water-drinkers. And with this agree the views of the leading physicians of Britain and the United States. What is the meaning of all this but God's own testimony in favour of his own laws, which he has estamped on our nature, by which He shows that the natural and proper condition of man is total abstinence from alcoholic liquors, and also shows His displeasure at the use of intoxicants as a violation of His laws?

If these conclusions be correct that the liquor traffic is the cause of so much waste of property and destruction of life, and of such a vast amount of suffering and misery, not merely to the drunkards themselves but to all related to them, and that it is the greatest hindrance to the prosperity of our country, is it not the duty of our Legislature to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicants, save for purely medicinal and mechanical purposes? It is objected that prohibition will be coercion and interference with the liberties of the people. All law is coercion. If we do not obey the law it seizes us, punishes us, and compels us to obey. It is the same with both Divine and human laws. Most of the Decalogue is prohibitory which infringes upon the liberty to do many things to which poor fallen human nature is only too much inclined. Do we cry out against the Divine law because of that? No; not many in Christian lands would like to do so openly; but no doubt the thief, the adulterer, the murderer, the forger, and the slanderer, think it hard to have their liberty thus infringed upon. Gambling-houses, houses of

ill-fame, lotteries, and such like, are forbidden by law, because injurious to the morals of the people, and because they sap the foundation of society, and lead directly to many crimes. Now the laws against all these crimes are sustained by the majority of the people, because these laws are all held to be necessary for the protection of society and for the best interests of the community. And no doubt were it not for these laws there would be a great deal more crime. Yet all these crimes put together do not cause the tenth part of the injury to society that the liquor traffic does. Government is an ordinance of God appointed for the good of society, and designed to be a terror to evil, and a protection to the weak and well-doing. The very object of its existence is to protect the community against injury on the part of the unprincipled. Society, therefore, has the right to protect itself, and has always acted on it in legislation. Render anything illegal and you make it discreditable, and this goes a good way towards preventing its general practice. This has been found to be the case in Maine and other states, where a prohibitory law has been enforced, where there is not the twelfth of the liquor sold there was before, and where there will not be the twentieth part when they can secure officials who will all do their duty. Besides special evils require special legislation. All prohibitory legislation is founded on this idea. If there was a dangerous place on the edge of a precipice or overhanging some fearful whirlpool, where the weak and timid were in the habit of going to destruction, would it not be the duty of the government to place a fence around it to protect such persons from injury? Blackstone declares drunkenness to be one of the crimes which ought to be restrained. The American judges have taken the same view. On this principle every Christian nation acts in prohibiting those things already mentioned, and anything that endangers the morals or health of the people. As to interfering with the rights of the people, we reply that the liquor traffic is an infringement on the primary rights of society, and tends to counteract its every design.

Society is, or ought to be, formed on the principle that every man is to seek subsistence for himself in such a way as not to interfere with the rights or happiness of others. The farmer, the labourer, the merchant, the mechanic, and the professional man, all benefit society providing for their own households. But it is not so with the liquor dealers; they seek only their own benefit and that always to the injury of society. Look at any community where distilleries abound; where the people indulge largely in the use of intoxicants, and you see that blight rests on it; business declines, and prosperity droops her wings and flies away to some more genial region. Every man is bound to pursue such a business as will tend to promote the welfare of the community, this the dealer in intoxicants does not do; the few are enriched

the many are impoverished, and society at large injured socially and morally. Suppose a man were to advertize fever, cholera and leprosy for gold, and could and would sell them, what would the community say to such traffic? Men would rise up and banish such a selfish monster from their midst. What would be thought of the farmer who would mix poison in the flour which he sold? You cannot express the horror which all men would feel at such a transaction. Yet such a traffic we witness daily, but men have become so long accustomed to it that they feel no horror at the sight. The state prohibit one man taking the life of another by pistol or otherwise; and shall it not prohibit men from taking the lives of others by the sale of that which sends hundreds of thousands yearly to the drunkard's grave and awful doom? If the law does not allow arsenic or tainted meat to be sold to those likely to injure themselves, why should intoxicants be allowed to be sold to those who injure themselves and society at the same time? Does not the use of alcohol lead to the destruction of more lives, the commission of more crimes, and the infliction of more misery, than all these other evils put together? Shall we restrain or prohibit the lesser evil and license the greater, because a great many make money out of the vices and weaknesses of their fellow men? The state enacts laws for the protection of Indians, minors, idiots and insane persons, and shall it not protect drunkards from those who cruelly tempt them to their ruin? We ask again, is it right for the state to sanction a traffic which, above everything, tends to increase crime, waste the national resources, corrupt the social habits, destroy the lives of the people? The very existence of the license system proves that the state has the right to legislate in this matter. Now the result of all past legislation abundantly proves that it is impossible satisfactorily to limit or regulate a system so essentially mischievous in its tendencies as the traffic in intoxicants. Besides, licensing what is wrong in itself, and injurious to society, is morally wrong, and a violation of a higher law. What does God's Word say about sanctioning and legalizing evil? "Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee that frameth mischief by a law?" Ps. 94: 20. "He shall bring upon them their own iniquity." v. 23. He punishes the nation that legalizes this evil traffic by greatly increasing their public burdens for criminal procedure, jails, penitentiaries, poor-houses, lunatic asylums, and asylums for widows and orphans; the traffic thus becoming a heavy burden and incalculable loss to the country. Drunkenness, and the traffic that makes drunkards, are sins against God and crimes against society, and no legislation can make them right. Government being the ordinance of God, for the good of the people, has no right to enact laws for the protection of evil. Laws are made for the restraint of the lawless which prey on the ignorant and foolish (1 Tim. 1: 9). Society therefore should not regulate evil by law, but prohibit and suppress.

What an outcry was raised in Britain years ago because of the voluntary murder of a few poor fanatic Hindoos under the wheels of the car of juggernaut, and the custom was abolished though it infringed on the liberties of the people and stopped the gains of the priests. Yet wonderful is the inconsistency of men, that horrified at customs which take the life of a few yearly in far distant lands, while they look with apathy upon customs which have been handed down from their ancestors, and which are interwoven with all their habits, though causing a thousand-fold more misery to their fellow men. Half a century ago the conscience of the British people was roused against the crime of keeping the negroes of the West India Islands in bondage, and the legislature set them at liberty; thus showing a nation jealous of the Divine blessing, and determined to get rid of the sin and shame of such traffic, though it thereby infringed the liberty of the shareholders.

Is it not then much more the duty of all Christian governments to put a stop to this the most gigantic evil of the age, by legislative prohibition? You tell me go on with your moral suasion and check the evil all you can in that way. As well talk moral suasion to the professional thief, adulterer or murderer, as talk moral suasion to those engaged in this traffic. Their ruling passion, avarice, is engaged in upholding the traffic, and all your moral suasion will be laughed at and treated with scorn. And the experience of 400 years of the license system proves that so long as the government permits these dealers to prey on the public and present temptation, the young and the weak will fall under their influence, and thus hundreds of thousands perish annually in Christian lands. It may be laid down as a primary maxim of morals that just in proportion as you increase temptation you increase crime and misery.

Let the Christian people then rise in their might and demand at the polls that the liquor traffic be suppressed, and the greatest blot on Christian legislation be forever removed from our statute books.

In a report of a Select Committee of the Parliament of Canada, in 1849, they recommend that each municipality should have the right to exclude the traffic in spirits in favor of temperance houses; that distilling should be heavily taxed if not prohibited; that habitual drunkenness should be held to amount to insanity, and that a drunkard should be held incapable of contracting and conducting his own affairs; to diminish the number of dealers in ardent spirits, and to abate "groggeries"; the license fee should be increased, in many cases quadrupled, in some multiplied by ten; that all public houses should be at all times open to the magistracy and police.

And they ask since the community is taxed for the repression or punishment of vice and crime caused by the liquor traffic, and this for the

benefit of distillers and vendors of spirituous liquors, why should they not themselves be assessed in a sum equal to the whole expenditure required to allay the treble evils consequent on their calling? They say if men distil and vend spirits, they should be made responsible for the consequences; that is they should have to provide for the impoverished wives and children of drunkards, and bear all the expenses resulting from the crimes caused by the traffic. If this just rule were strictly applied, the traffic would cease to pay, and would therefore soon cease to exist. This principle has been virtually adopted by some of the states of the American Union. During the year 1882 six states have put greater restrictions on the traffic, which has become one of the greatest dangers of a free country, and which is full of peril to the progress and elevation of the race. Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Iowa have followed in line with Maine, Vermont, Texas, Ohio, and others, as determined to do something to check the spread and even the continuance of this evil in the land. Though differing in their circumstances and character of their people, they all agree in a public condemnation of the traffic, and some put on very heavy licences, of \$400 or upwards.

By the progress thus made, the question of prohibition is but a question of time. The progress of temperance reform in Great Britain has been very great of late. The Church of England Temperance Society now number about 500,000 members, spending over \$100,000 yearly in this work; and has the sympathy and active co-operation of the great body of the laymen and clergymen in the English Church.



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